

10/707,122

FIS920030220US1

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3 to 5 and 8 remain in the present application. Claims 1, 4 and 8 have been amended for which there is support in the specification, claims and drawings as originally filed. Claims 2, 6, 7 and 9 to 24 have been canceled without prejudice.

Reconsideration of the Examiner's decisions and reexamination of this application are respectfully requested. Entry of this amendment is respectfully requested as the amendments to the claims are either to address a 35 USC §112, second paragraph, rejection raised in the Office Action or to incorporate allowable subject matter in the claims.

**The §112 rejection:**

Claim 4 was rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite because the phrase "said liner layer deposited on the ILD" lacks antecedent basis.

Claim 4 has been amended to state "said liner layer deposited in said interconnect aperture" which has clear antecedent basis in claim 1. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 4 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph, has been overcome.

**The §102 rejections:**

Claims 1 and 3 to 5 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Gopalraja et al. U.S. Patent 6,277,249.

In view of the indication of allowable subject matter, this rejection is now moot.

**Allowable subject matter:**

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The Examiner has indicated that claims 6 and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, the subject matter of claim 6 has been incorporated into claim 1 and thus claim 6 has been canceled. Since claim 1 should be allowable, claims 3 to 5 which depend therefrom should also be allowable. Claim 8 has been amended by incorporating the limitations of claim 1 and should be allowable as well.

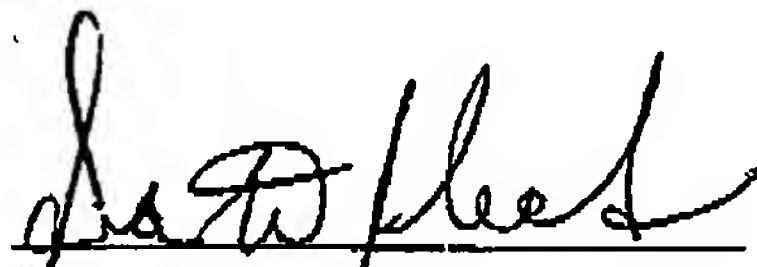
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Summary:

In view of all of the preceding remarks, it is submitted that all of claims 1, 3 to 5 and 8 are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner finds this application deficient in any respect, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner's earliest convenience to resolve such deficiency.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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